



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

New Bedford Mayor Opens New Downtown Police Station

Police Force Continues to Decentralize

New Bedford, Massachusetts-Mayor Scott W. Lang today unveiled the new Downtown (District 1) New Bedford Police Station, a city-owned property located in the heart of downtown remodeled and updated by city crews into a modern public safety facility. Station One is the third police station opened in New Bedford since Mayor Lang took office in January 2006, and is part of the administration's ongoing efforts to decentralize the police force and enact community policing strategies in every area of the city.

At the official opening today Mayor Lang said, "We are infusing the presence of the police throughout New Bedford's neighborhoods and downtown is extremely important as it consists of seniors, students, visitors and families and is our center of commerce. The New Bedford Police Department has not had a presence downtown in nearly a decade and the opening of this district station brings a strong sense of security here and to the surrounding neighborhoods. It is my intention to open four additional substations in the coming months in the near north end, west end, south end and Weld's Square areas. These additional locations will also supply a greater sense of community safety. The stations and substations improve efficiency and community relations for the New Bedford Police Department."

The new 24-hour district police station, located at 572 Pleasant Street and known officially as "Station #1," has been operational since Thursday, September 27, 2007.

New Bedford Police Chief Ronald E. Teachman said, "We are grateful for the leadership and vision of Mayor Scott Lang, who understands the importance of increasing our police presence downtown, and of providing a workplace suitable for police professionals. We look forward to strengthening our relationship with the tourists, the merchants, the customers, the residents, the students and faculty, and our other new neighbors here downtown." He continued, "We thank Commissioner of the Department of Public Facilities Larry Worden and Superintendent of Building, Maintenance and Construction John Perry and their dedicated staff for the effort they put into this project over the past

several months. I would personally like to acknowledge Deputy Chief Dave Provencher and Captain Joe Cordeiro for their involvement in this initiative. Captain Cordeiro will command this new facility, and, as the person most familiar with the needs of officers stationed here, he was given wide authority over the project development.”

New Bedford Police Headquarters, located at 871 Rockdale Avenue will continue to house the administrative divisions of the department; the office of the police chief and deputy chiefs, detectives division, narcotics division, the gang unit, traffic, bookkeeping and communications. The patrol and Community Policing divisions will now deploy out of the new downtown station. There will be no change in the areas assigned to the patrol division or in the Community Police officers’ assignments.

At New Bedford Police Department Headquarters on Rockdale Avenue, the public can obtain reports previously filed and now stored in the Central Records Bureau as well as conduct business with the Traffic Division or the Firearms Division, such as following up on a hit and run investigation, or renewing their gun license. However, to initiate an investigation, to file a report, or to conduct other business with the patrol division that covers the Downtown and West end areas, the public should go directly to Station #1 at 572 Pleasant Street or call the non-emergency line at (508) 991-6340.

The first floor of the new station has a central workspace equipped with computers where officers can complete and submit reports, an evidence processing station, a sergeant’s office, and two interview rooms. The fitness room and updated locker room facilities meet the needs of the Police Department's changing workforce. The new station also has a community meeting room to promote neighborhood involvement.

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